

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21, as follows:

FIGURE 2 shows graphical representations of the magnesium dependence of the formation of splice products from internally radiolabeled precursor. Reactions were run for 1 h in HxMg buffer, consisting of 50 mM Hepes (25 mM Na⁺) at pH 7.5, 135 mM KCl, and x mM MgCl₂, where x is listed below the plots. Each plot is the average of two independently run self-splice gel assays, and the error of each point is typically $\pm 6\%$ of the average value. Circles represent the 5' exon-intron product generated by either *trans*-splicing or intron-3' exon junction hydrolysis. Squares represent the intron products formed either by splicing or by hydrolysis at both the 5' exon-intron and intron-3' exon junctions. Results are shown (A) in the presence of 1 mM pG and 30 μ M (dA)n(dT)n(dG)n(dA)n(dC)n(rU) [Seq. ID. No:1], and (B) in the absence of added hexamer, (C) in the absence of pG and in the presence of 30 μ M (dA)n(dT)n(dG)n(dA)n(dC)n(rU) [Seq. ID. No:1], and (D) in the absence of pG and (dA)n(dT)n(dG)n(dA)n(dC)n(rU) [Seq. ID. No:1].